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GOVERNOR

State of Louisiana
Governor's Office of Homeland Security
and
Emergency Preparedness

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PRESS RELEASE

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LOUISIANA TO ASSIST STATE OF MARYLAND **Hurricane Irene Threatens East Coast**

Baton Rouge, LA (August 26, 2011) – Tomorrow, the Governor's Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness (GOHSEP) will send a two person team to the State of Maryland to assist with response and recovery efforts for Hurricane Irene. The request came from Maryland through the Emergency Management Assistance Compact (EMAC). The GOHSEP employees will be deployed for two weeks.

Interim GOHSEP Director Pat Santos said, "As we approach the sixth anniversary of Hurricane Katrina, we remember the assistance we received from other states such as Maryland. Now, our expertise in responding to disasters is what they need from us and we are more than willing to help." Santos added, "Our thoughts and prayers are with everyone impacted by this storm."

In 2005, Maryland provided Louisiana with 454 law enforcement, Urban Search and Rescue (USAR) teams and National Guard troops in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina. Maryland also provided 113 National Guard personnel after Hurricane Rita struck. And in 2008, they sent 182 National Guard and law enforcement to support Louisiana following Hurricane Gustav.

The EMAC is a formal agreement between states to provide assistance during a disaster. It was established in 1996 to allow states that are not in a declared disaster area to aid states in need. Most recently, GOHSEP's highly trained EMAC team has been called upon to assist in Alabama and Missouri after tornadoes ravaged those areas.

Hurricane season ends November 30. Go to www.getagameplan.org for information on how to keep you and your family safe from hurricanes and other hazards.

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